

total of exchange operations reached 2,966,300,000 crowns (\$602,000,000) and the bank was able to congratulate its shareholders that it was able to maintain a discount rate of six per cent., while higher rates prevailed in the countries around it.¹

The action of the government in buying silver for subsidiary coinage from the bank proved a great aid to the latter in solving the problem what to do with its large stocks of silver accumulated when that metal was near the old parity with gold. The cash reserves of the National Bank of Austria and of the Austro-Hungarian Bank consisted almost exclusively of silver while that metal was at a premium over gold, but gold began to flow into the bank in 1871, and soon came to constitute about half the reserve. The gold then remained nearly stationary in amount for ten years, while the silver rapidly increased. This difficulty has not been serious in recent years, and the gold stock has come to exceed the silver by about four times. The gold held at the close of 1906 was 1,112,263,245 crowns, and decreased to the close of 1907 only to 1,099,393,421 crowns (\$223,150,-ooo). The silver stock decreased during the same interval from 282,055,904 crowns to 281,485,199 crowns (\$57,130,000). In spite of the change in the monetary unit, computation in florins long lingered in Austria. It was encouraged by the continued use of the silver pieces of one florin, of which the bank possessed a large stock. It was decided early in 1908 to discontinue the issue of silver florins and to coin at once a large part of those in the reserves of the bank into pieces of one crown.⁸

The proportions of gold and silver held and other statistics of the bank, before the change in the monetary unit, appear in the following table;

¹ Generalversammlung der Oesterreichisch-Ungarischen Bank am Februar, 1908, xviii. ⁵ U. S. Consular Reports, August 12, 1908, 14.